

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Training Area

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DATE PREPARED 13 July 1951

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE) one sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. On 22 May 1951, [redacted] by blasting, 64 tank shell  
duds at the drill field near Kannenburg in the Templin (N 54/U 81) training  
area. Each of the 65 houses along the village road in Kannenburg quartered about  
20 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About  
30 tents, each capable of sheltering 24 men, were at the northern perimeter  
of Kannenburg. Four JS tanks were parked beside the tents.

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2. [redacted]  
[redacted], until 9 June, Camp Vogelsang quartered the  
following units:

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- a. A tank unit from Prenzlau (N 54/Q 14) [redacted]  
[redacted] While the commanding officer, a colonel, was on leave,  
one Major Shanin (spelling uncertain) was acting commander of the  
unit, which included 150 officers. Every morning at 8 a.m., the majority of the  
unit assembled for roll call and subsequently marched in review past the  
commanding officer. Usually, the troops were organized into 10 blocks of  
about 50 men each, with a band and the officers standing at the right wing.
- b. An unidentified tank unit commanded by Colonel Shuk (spelling uncertain)  
(fnu), [redacted]
- c. A unit from Oranienburg (N 53/Z 67) [redacted]  
commanded by one Colonel Semenov or Semanov (?).

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- The officers' mess catered to 120  
to 140 officers in 1950, and to 180 to 200 officers during the present  
training period.

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- d. Another tank unit from Prenzlau [redacted]  
was commanded by one Colonel Kuzain [redacted]

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3. Camp Vogelsang is composed of four sections. Each section contains a number of  
low wooden barracks buildings, including: 1 headquarters building; 4 or 5 officers'  
billets; officers' and EM kitchens and mess rooms; 1 officers' club; and numerous  
classroom buildings and lavatories. The EM quarters were quite a distance from

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the tank and motor vehicle parking lots. Adjoining each camp section was a drill field. New wooden barracks buildings were under construction on either side of the road approaching the camp from the south. An ammunition dump, about 100 meters square and surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, was established in the dense woods, with the ammunition boxes piled up in the open. No fuel dump seemed to be available; however, about 30 tank trucks drove to the camp on 3 June. Numerous tanks were seen along the edge of the woods southeast of the camp. Tracks of numerous motor vehicles and tanks led to these woods. Frequent tank practice, mostly at night, was conducted recently in the area near Storkow, east of the Zehdenick-Berlin road. Activities of the troops included: daily drill at the drill field, including basic training of recruits; and frequent marches while wearing gas masks. At the time of observation, numerous officers and EM had gone or were going on leave, a practice which was also observed during the summer of 1950. They will all return for the large-scale maneuvers at the end of the summer. \*

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5. The following troops and supplies were unloaded in the Templin training area between 6 and 10 June:
- 6 June. About 450 recruits with red-bordered black epaulets from 11 boxcars, at the Vogelsang railroad station. The troops marched to Camp Vogelsang.
  - About 650 recruits with red-bordered black epaulets from 16 boxcars, at the Hammelspring railroad station. The troops marched to Camp Hammelspring.
  - 9 June. A carload of bacon from Oranienburg, at the Vogelsang railroad station. The bacon was hauled to Camp Vogelsang.
  - 10 June. About 1,300 troops with red-bordered black epaulets from 32 boxcars, at the Vogelsang railroad station. All of them were trained soldiers, including many privates first class, junior sergeants and sergeants, wearing war decorations. The troops were unarmed and wore artillery, tank, motor transport, and musicians' insignia. They marched to Camp Vogelsang in small groups. \*\*\*

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6.

[REDACTED]

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Comment.

[REDACTED]

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four  
camps situated side by side which probably quartered tank units of the  
25th Tank Div. [REDACTED] the  
units mentioned in the present report correspond to those of the tank  
regiments of the 25th Tank Div. [REDACTED]

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Major Shanin, acting  
commander of the regiment, may be Captain Shanin (fnu), who, in World War II,  
belonged to the 26th Gds Tank Brig which was merged with the 25th Gds Tank  
Brig of the II Gds Tank Corps in January 1944. He may also be one Shanin  
(fnu), who according to a press dispatch of September 1948, was commanding  
a tank unit in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Colonel Shuk possibly is  
Lieutenant Colonel Shuk (fnu), who was the wartime chief of staff of the  
45th Gds Tank Brig in December 1943. Since Colonel Shuk's unit is the only  
tank regiment [REDACTED] it  
is probably the 1628 Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div from Oranienburg. On  
the basis of the present report, Colonel Sersenov, or Seryanov, (fnu), is  
carried as the commanding officer of the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank  
Div from Oranienburg. Colonel Kuzmin (fnu) has been repeatedly reported  
to be in command of a tank unit in Prenzlau. With the  
present report mentioning him again, Colonel Kuzmin is carried as the  
commanding officer of the 23d Gds Tank SP Regt of the 25th Tank Div from  
Prenzlau. The troops [REDACTED] to have gone on leave were probably  
dischargees going to the U.S.S.R.

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Comment.

[REDACTED] a unit in Wiederitzsch, north of Leipzig,  
dispatched a shipment of motor vehicle spare parts in May 1951. [REDACTED]  
the 175th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div in Prenzlau, which  
is confirmed by the present report until 9 June 1951. Chapel  
the Lieutenant Colonel (Tank Troops) Chapel (fnu), who was mentioned in a  
radio broadcast in July 1944.

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[REDACTED]

The group of about 1,300 seen on 10 June were probably soldiers  
ready for demobilization.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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